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## REMARKS.

By MR. GLENN BROWN.

Although the work of L'Enfant has been described repeatedly before this Society, it will not be amiss to briefly outline it again.

The original plan of the city of Washington was matured by Pierre Charles L'Enfant after studied investigation of the site by George Washington and himself, and after a careful consideration of the existing as well as many proposed plans of the Old World cities. In the preparation of this plan the location of the buildings and parks was mapped out on broad and effective lines, so as to attain harmony as well as utility in grouping the whole scheme into one unit.

Prominent points were selected for the principal buildings and proposed monuments. Stretching from the site of the capitol to the site of a proposed monument, the broad reach of the Mall was planned, and crossing at right angles to this site was the axis of the executive mansion and park. Radiating streets from central points with buildings or monuments at the end of pleasing vistas formed another feature of special beauty. The fundamental idea of the scheme was a dignified, formal and artistic approach and setting for these principal architectural monuments.

The plan was not copied from any existing city. The radiating streets and vistas of modern Paris were all devised under the two Napoleons, and L'Enfant's and Washington's plan was drawn in 1791.

The plan of the streets with their noble vistas and the outlines of the park system were executed, and the

capitol and executive mansion were built on the sites selected. The general design suggested buildings on the north and south of the Mall which was evidently intended to be an open space with boulevard ornamented with planting, sculpture and objects of art similar to the grand openings in Versailles and Fontainebleau, which give such magnificent views of the buildings, and form such a far-reaching vista of exquisite beauty.

A great principle, a noble work never dies—ridiculed, ignored, apparently forgotten, it lives to grow with fresh vigor and new strength. L'Enfant, existing and buried by the charity of appreciative friends, ill-treated and ignored by his government, his work ridiculed by succeeding generations, left the nation its greatest artistic heritage—a harmonious, artistic and noble plan for a capital city; the key note of the commission's plan for the future development of our city; the inspiration for city planning development from Boston to New Orleans, from New York to Seattle. The revival of the L'Enfant plan has been a wave of enthusiasm from east to west, from north to south. Civilized Europe praises it without stint. Far-away Japan expresses its hearty appreciation.

Dying in poverty, his name lives in the civilized world. The true principles—harmony and beauty—of his are an inspiration to all people—seeking harmony and beauty in city plans, and this movement is world-wide.

Eighty years his plan was forgotten. Fifteen years ago the subject of going back to his plan for the future development of the city was brought forward, and the result has been wonderful in its effectiveness.

L'Enfant lives in the spirit. His remains were transferred from their resting place on the Digges

farm, all of which your President has told you. The great men of this and foreign nations expressed their appreciation during the ceremonies in the rotunda of the capitol, and he was buried with military honors on the hillside at Arlington, from which we can imagine his spirit overlooking the growth and development of his plan in all its beauty and harmony.

Congress appropriated one thousand dollars for a monument to L'Enfant. The Beaux Arts Society of Architects (architects who have attended the Beaux Arts in Paris) offered to hold a competition and furnish the design with compensation for the monument.

Mr. Macfarland accepted this offer, making the selection subject to the approval of the President and Secretary of the American Institute of Architects, and I have with me here the design which was approved, a simple type of the tomb of the period when L'Enfant was with us.

His greatest monument is the city which he planned. Our highest tribute to him will be its development and completion on the lines approved. Both his name and legacy will live as long as we are a nation.